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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/774,157

02/06/2004

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EXAMINER
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PHILOGENE, PEDRO

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3733

DATE MAILED: 08/10/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

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<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 10/774,157	<b>Applicant(s)</b> EISERMANN ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b> Pedro Philogene	<b>Art Unit</b> 3733	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1)  Responsive to communication(s) filed on 06 February 2004.
- 2a)  This action is **FINAL**.
- 2b)  This action is non-final.
- 3)  Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4)  Claim(s) 1-38 is/are pending in the application.
  - 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5)  Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6)  Claim(s) 1-38 is/are rejected.
- 7)  Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8)  Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9)  The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10)  The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a)  accepted or b)  objected to by the Examiner.
  - Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
  - Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11)  The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12)  Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a)  All    b)  Some \*    c)  None of:
    - 1.  Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    - 2.  Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    - 3.  Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1)  Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2)  Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3)  Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 1/6/06; 2/25/05, 9/21/04, 8/10/04
- 4)  Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_
- 5)  Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6)  Other: \_\_\_\_\_

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) and the Intellectual Property and High Technology Technical Amendments Act of 2002 do not apply when the reference is a U.S. patent resulting directly or indirectly from an international application filed before November 29, 2000. Therefore, the prior art date of the reference is determined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

Claims 1-3,8-19,22-25,30-38 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Huppert et al. (WO 03/039400).

With respect to claims 1, 22,23, Huppert et al disclose a prosthetic device for anterior-oblique insertion into an intervertebral space, comprising a first component (112) comprising a first articular surface and opposed first bearing surface, a first flange (2') extending from the bearing surface, the first flange being angled relative to the to the longitudinal and transverse axes of the first components; as best seen in FIG.4, a projection (13) extending from the first articular surface; and a second component (111) comprising a second articular surface and an opposed second bearing surface; a

second flange (2) extending from the second bearing surface the second flange being angled relative to the longitudinal and transverse axes of the second component; as best seen in FIG.4, as set forth in page 2, lines 2, 6, 16-24, page 6, lines 9-13, page 7, lines 11-19, 29-31 a recess, as best seen in FIG.3, formed in the second articular surface, the recess being adapted to engage with the projection to provide for articulating motion between the first and second components.

With respect to claims 2-3, 8-19, 24-25, Huppert et al disclose all the limitations; as set forth; for example, the flanges are adapted to aligned either parallel or offset relative to each other, as best seen in FIG.4, the flange including a gap and sharp portion; the projection being convex and the recess being concave as best seen in FIG.3, the flange adapted to be positioned within a preformed anterior-oblique opening, as best seen in FIG.4, the flange coated with a bone promoting substance; as set forth in page 8, line 16.

With respect to claims 30-38, the method steps, as set forth, would have been inherently carried out in the operation of the device, asset forth above.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 4-7,26-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Huppert et al. (WO 03/039400).

With respect to the above claims, it is noted that Huppert et al did not teach of a device having a triangular shape and a flange parallel to either one of the sides; as claimed by applicant. However, this particular shape is nothing more than one of numerous configurations one of ordinary skill in the art would have found obvious for the purpose of providing mating surface in the prosthetic device of Huppert et al. in re Dailey, 149 USPQ 47 (CCPA 1976). As for the flange being parallel to any one of the sides, as can be seen in FIG.4 of Huppert et al the flange would have parallel to any one of the sides.

Claims 20,22, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Huppert et al. (WO 03/039400) in view of Marnay et al. (6,936,071).

With respect to claims 21,22, it is noted that Huppert et al did not teach of a first and second components including a pair of notches; as claimed by applicant. However, in a similar art, Marnay et al evidence the use of a first and second components including a pair of notches to introduce an implant into an intervertebral space.

Therefore, given the teaching of Manay et al, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the a pair of notches in the device of Huppert et al, to introduce the device of Huppert et al into an intervertebral space.

### ***Conclusion***

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

6,740,118	5-2004	Eisermann et al.
6,966,929	11-2005	Mitchell
7,083,649	08-2006	Zucherman et al.
6,994,727	02-2006	Khandkar et al.


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Pedro Philogene whose telephone number is (571) 272-4716. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday 6:30 AM to 4:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Eduardo Robert can be reached on (571) 272 - 4719. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 3733

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Pedro Philogene  
August 06, 2006

  
PEDRO PHILOGENE  
PRIMARY EXAMINER